

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
an input portion inputting color image data read by a reading  
portion,  
a detector detecting whether said input color image data is out of a  
predetermined color space, and  
5 a determining portion determining that said color image data is  
image noise when said detector detects that said color image data is out of  
said predetermined color space.
2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said predetermined color space is determined in accordance with a  
characteristic of said reading portion.
3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein,  
when the color image data detected by said detector to be out of said  
predetermined color space continues in a sub scanning direction of said  
reading portion, said determining portion determines the continuing color  
5 image data as image noise.
4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising a corrector correcting the color image data determined by said  
determining portion as image noise.
5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said reading portion includes a reading portion having a plurality of line  
sensors arranged in a sub scanning direction at predetermined intervals  
and respectively corresponding to different colors.
6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said reading portion reads the color image data with said reading portion  
kept stationary and a document moved with respect to said reading portion.

7. An image producing apparatus comprising the image processing apparatus according to claim 1.

8. An image processing method, comprising the steps of:  
inputting color image data read by a reading portion,  
detecting whether said input color image data is out of a  
predetermined color space, and

5 when said color image data is detected by said detecting step to be out of said predetermined color space, determining that said color image data is image noise.

9. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined color space is determined in accordance with a characteristic of said reading portion.

10. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein, when the color image data detected by said detecting step to be out of said predetermined color space continues in a sub scanning direction of said reading portion, said determining step determines the continuing color  
5 image data as image noise.

11. The image processing method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of correcting the color image data determined by said determining step as image noise.

12. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said reading portion includes a reading portion having a plurality of line sensors arranged in a sub scanning direction at predetermined intervals and respectively corresponding to different colors.

13. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said reading portion reads the color image data with said reading portion kept stationary and a document moved with respect to said reading portion.